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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You who dwell in Your high and holy place, high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, hear the prayers of those who reside in the torment of these times.

In these harrowing days when nations rage and war threatens to upend this fragile world, we call to You with humble hearts that You would speak into our conflicts and bring order to our chaos.

May this be a time for our self-reflection.

How have we played a part in the instability of the world's order? Call us to account for any careless stewardship of our influence.

How have we failed to prevent bloodshed and destruction? Take us to task for any indifference we may have shown to the growing unrest around us.

Repay the contrariness of our faithfulness with the comfort of Your constant care. In Your great mercy, heal our world. Lead those who call upon You out of harm's way.

Revive the spirit of the humble, those whose courage grows faint, whose souls languish in the midst of violence and oppression, and grant us Your peace.

We call upon Your sovereign name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, no amount of warnings from the Biden administration and our intelligence could have prepared us for the sheer brutality and devastation we have seen from Mr. Putin, who expected a quick toppling of Ukraine's young democracy. He was wrong.

We have watched in awe the resilience and heroism of the Ukrainians led by President Zelensky. But their bravery alone is not enough. We must meet their bravery with global support.

This is a war and a humanitarian crisis—families, children, forced to leave their homes in the carnage of war. The number of refugees fleeing Ukraine has already exceeded 1 million, and it is estimated that it will go as high as 5 million. But death, destruction, and displacement must not be forever.

Madam Speaker, I thank President Biden and his administration for their steadfast leadership in the West's support of Ukraine. Alongside the President, this Congress must continue to provide necessary weapons, medicines, food, fuel, and refuge.

Ukrainians worldwide, please know: We are here for you. You are welcome here.

God bless America. God bless Ukraine.

CLEARING BACKLOGGED VETERAN REQUESTS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, since November 2020, our team has pressured the National Personnel Records Center, the agency responsible for processing veterans' service records, to return to full staffing levels and expedite the requests of veterans, who in some cases have waited over a year for access to their benefits.

Most recently, the NPRC was operating at 25 percent capacity due to the pandemic, but it said it would fully reopen this month. However, the agency offered no plan on how it will tackle a backlog that has now grown to 600,000 records requests. That is 100,000 more added since June 2021.

The lack of transparency at the NPRC has made it clear that we must pass legislation, like the RECORDS Act, to direct the NPRC to fully reopen and report to Congress on its efforts to clear out the backlog of records requests.

Our veterans did not hesitate to sacrifice for America, and we must not hesitate in our duty to ensure they have a responsive government that is attentive to their needs.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we heard at the State of the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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